

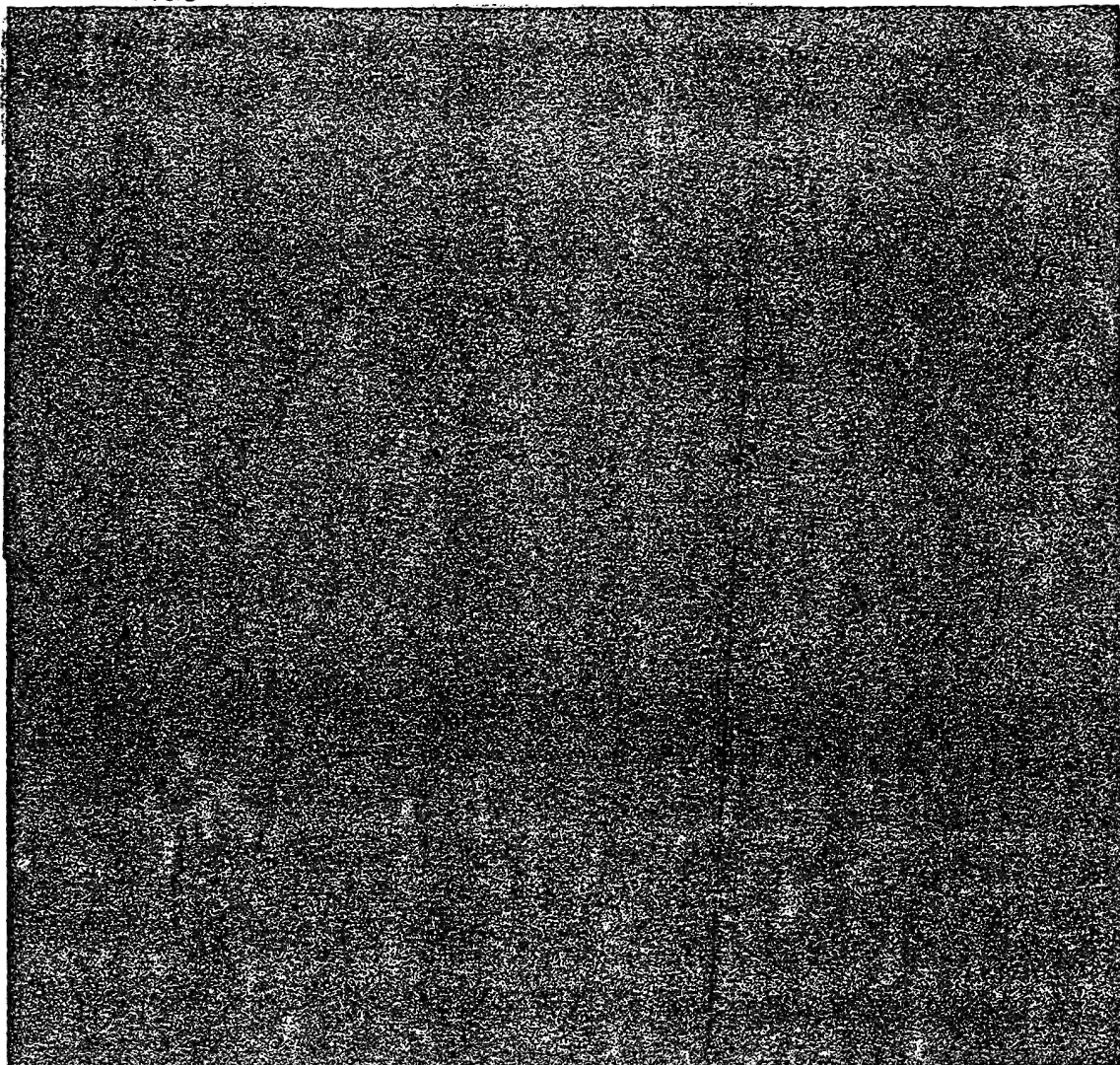
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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY REVIEW

14 January 1960

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PROPOSED CUBAN CONFERENCE OF UNDERDEVELOPED NATIONS

The Castro government's efforts to organize a conference of "hungry nations" is a bid for a position of leadership among the neutralist, underdeveloped countries with which Cuba now identifies itself. Cuba insists that the conference, to be held in Havana in the summer of 1960, is not political, but economic and technical, and that its main

objective should be "the drafting of a charter of the economic rights of people."

Castro officials seek in their public statements to imply that the conference will have formal UN cooperation. Secretary General Hammarskjold, however, has in the past been careful to prevent his organization from being involved in conferences

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of an obviously political or propagandist nature.

Four teams of Cuban diplomats and economists, one led by Foreign Minister Raul Roa, are now visiting over 30 African, Asian, Mediterranean, and Latin American countries to discuss a proposed agenda. The other governments are being invited to co-sponsor the meeting, and expenses are offered by Cuba for five delegates from each country. Roa probably made a particularly strong approach to Nasir during their recent talks, since Cairo is already cooperating to establish closer Cuban-UAR ties. The foreign minister will also visit Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, Yugoslavia, and Greece.

Another team led by the Cuban ambassador to India has left for Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Pakistan, Ceylon, Iran, Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines. Still others are visiting Liberia, Ghana, Cameroun, Guinea, Yemen, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, and most Latin American countries.

Castro's determination to follow a "third-position" foreign policy is consistent with

his claim that the Cuban revolution is a "humanistic" middle path between capitalism and communism. However, Cuba's policies in the UN, OAS, and elsewhere seem designed primarily to assert defiance of the United States.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Lafer says he feels the conference would benefit only the Communists and hopes that Latin American countries will not attend.

Brazil considers its own Operation Pan America. Latin America's best hope for obtaining US economic aid and evidently fears that Castro's activities threaten its success.

Other countries have as yet evinced no decided reaction, but if sufficient official support is not forthcoming, a conference of "leaders" of special interest groups would probably be substituted to help propagandize the moral and economic "responsibilities" of richer countries, particularly the United States.